Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

Appeal - help us grow

Help us raise £10,000

Socialist Worker is launching an appeal for £10,000.
There are real signs that a fighting spirit is returning to the Irish working class. The stoppage at Ryanair showed how powerful solidarity can be. The recent victorious unofficial building workers strikes have shown that determined action - and willingness to defy injunctions in the case of the Crampton's strike - can win.
The Socialist Workers Party is the only party in Ireland that has not turned its back on this militancy. Whether it is producing posters, organising fund-raising events or spreading the message, the SWP is geared up to support workers in struggle. By contrast the Labour Party and Democratic Left were opposed to the shutdown of the airport during the Ryanair dispute and helped call off the picketing before a decisive victory was won.
Socialist Worker itself carries news of disputes and much more. It keeps alive the lessons from past struggles and makes the arguments Socialists need to challenge right wing and divisive ideas. The paper connects the immediate issues of injustice and exploitation to the possibility of winning a socialist society.
We want to raise £10,000 in order to put the paper and the organisation on a stronger footing. Producing the paper requires a professional office with up-to date equipment. All the posters, leaflets and campaigning activities of the Party costs money.
Fund-raising is easy for the right-wing parties. After all, Fianna Fail can appoint men like Jim Lacey, whose expertise includes the running of N.I.B. bank while it was stealing from its customers. Bertie Ahern's latest appeal is for a million pounds a year from big business. And if the need arises, generous loans are available to these parties, such as the PD's reported £300,000 overdraft - with the N.I.B.
Since we are out to smash the network of corrupt politicians and big business we have no friends in high places. Instead we are appealing to our readers and supporters.
Please give as much as you can to help us grow.

HOW TO SEND A DONATION - SEE BACK

"Socialist Worker gave fantastic support to the lads - outside of the airport they were the only people on the ground marching with us. The paper cut through the crap to tell it honestly."
Baggage Handler, Ryanair

"I would urge every rank and file trade unionist who would like to see the unions fighting to give to the Socialist Worker appeal.
"It was Socialist Worker which first launched a campaign for a minimum wage of £5 an hour and the paper has always argued that partnership won't deliver for workers.
"The time is right for a serious fightback, and Socialist Worker will help unite every struggle."
Carolann Duggan, SIPTU activist

Fighting against racism

From the end of May 1997 immigrants suddenly became the target of politicians and the media. Since the formation of the Fianna Fail/PD government the scapegoating has continued, with refugee's being deported.

In response to this racism Socialist Worker rushed out thousands of posters saying "refugees are welcome here" and a pamphlet giving the facts behind the hype. The party has given its full support to every anti-racist initiative and in particular has helped stop racists like Aine Ni Chonnail from spreading her divisive message.

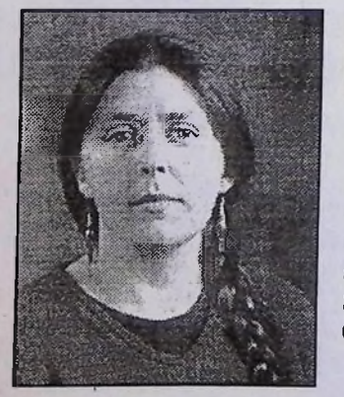
Building workers' victory

"The contribution made by Socialist Worker to the rank and file - in particular producing posters and leaflets at a moments notice - was invaluable. Especially for the disputes at Crampton's and Zoe's.

"The articles in Socialist Worker generated interest in our struggle and our case was carried into the national press."

Dublin Regional Council member, BATU

The successful bricklayers strike at Cramptons, waged in the face of intimidation and court injunctions, is having huge repercussions throughout the building industry. Bricklayers in Limerick won direct employment from Arch construction after a city wide strike and Zoe's was hit by a two day strike before going to talks. Socialist Worker members supported the Crampton's strike from the beginning and put the printing resources of the party at their disposal.



For the rank and file

Carolann Duggan, a rank and file activist in SIPTU, and member of the SWP, ran three fantastic campaigns for top union positions, shocking the union establishment with the size of her votes. Her campaigns showed the desire that exists amongst thousands of SIPTU members for a fighting union - standing for issues such as a £5 an hour minimum wage.

Socialist Worker produced tens of thousands of leaflets in support of Carolann's campaigns.

Magnificent Solidarity at Dublin Airport

The closure of Dublin Airport on March 15th through the solidarity of SIPTU members with their colleagues fighting for union rights at Ryanair was one of the best trade union actions for years. It clearly demonstrated the power of workers. Socialist Worker members supported the pickets, organised fund-raising for the baggage handlers and produced thousands of leaflets arguing the way forward. For two issues *Socialist Worker* gave over the front page to the cause of the Ryanair strikers.

...but recognition could have been won

The display of workers power terrified the establishment. The Taoiseach hurriedly contacted the thirty nine strikers to try and end the action.

But the settlement which involves an inquiry is far less than outright recognition. This is where revolutionary politics can play a crucial role in the outcome of disputes. The politics of the leaders of SIPTU are those of Labour and Democratic Left. They believe in limiting action to suit partnership with the employers. The SWP urged the strikers to keep up the action until recognition was won.

France shows the future

Just what we can expect when Ireland's Celtic Tiger starts to falter is shown by the recent events in France. In the local government elections the fascist National Front run by Jean Marie Le Pen and his deputy Bruno Mégret got a boost from the collapse of the right wing, Tory, party - who in many areas have done a deal with the fascists to stay in power.

This has underlined the reality of the Nazi threat in France.

But the Nazi's can be stopped. The key feature of French society in recent years has been a move to the left, on the back of waves of strikes and protests. The Tories were in office with a massive parliamentary majority until last year. Their government was broken by the series of revolts, which began with the 1993 Air France strike and culminated in the huge 1995 public sector workers' revolt.

Those struggles saw the Socialist Party win last year's elections and form a coalition government with the Communist Party and Greens.

There have been further revolts from below since then and every poll has underlined the general move to the left.

In the run up to the regional elections meetings addressed by Le Pen or Mégret saw thousands of people join anti-Nazi protests. In Toulouse some 15,000 marched, with similar numbers demonstrating in other cities. If such protests were built on, and linked to a fight to win real improvement in living conditions, the Nazis could be crushed.

The events in France show the urgency of building a revolutionary party that can offer a socialist alternative to the despair that the Nazi's thrive on.

Socialist Worker fighting fund
Collection Sheet

Name	Workplace/Organisation/College	Amount

How to make a donation

Make cheques or postal orders payable to "Socialist Worker" and send to:

PO Box 1648
Dublin 8

or

PO Box 354
Tomb St.
Belfast

To lodge directly:
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Account no: 85173030
AIB, 37/38 Upr O'Connell St, D1
Sort Code 93-11-36
***Or:* Socialist Worker,**
Account no: 00812073
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Sort Code 93-80-92